

Habitat Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Horse Bench Habitat Restoration

Proposal Number: 1086

DWR Region: Southeastern Region

Lead Agency: DWR

County: Carbon

Project Manager: Kyle Beagley

PM Phone: 4356133719

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 04/01/2008

Project Location: Approximately 6 miles southwest of Price.

Project Description: Lop-and-Scatter project on 497 acres of SITLA property existing in Conoco-Phillip's CBM field southwest of Price, Utah.

Description of Problem/Need: Winter ranges in Utah have declined because of a number of often-interrelated causes including pinyon-juniper expansion, invasive weeds, residential and hydrocarbon development, drought, and poor grazing practices. Pinyon/Juniper woodlands, which typically offer little winter forage to big game animals, have increased 10-fold during the past 130 years from 2.9 - 29 million hectares in the Intermountain West. Not surprisingly, in recent decades, mule deer numbers have declined in Utah. Elk numbers have not declined, but conflicts with agricultural interests have increased. Projects such as this are necessary to counter these trends wherever funding can be found.

Mule deer and elk will benefit substantially from improvements to their winter range. When the current drought ends, winter range improvements such as this will play an important role in supporting the recovery of mule deer populations. By mitigating the effects of coalbed methane development with habitat improvements, we may reduce conflicts with agriculture at lower elevations.

Objectives:

- Enhance winter habitat for mule deer and elk
- Set the vegetative succession back to an earlier stage
- Promote establishment of grasses, forbs, and shrubs

Relevance to Strategic Plans: A habitat project similar to this one is currently being planned in the surrounding area. In the recent past, numerous projects of this type have been conducted in the vicinity of Horse Bench. The majority of recent projects and projects under planning have had the same goal to remove encroaching PJ woodlands and promote the growth of grasses, forbs, and shrubs to ultimately improve wintering habitat for mule deer and elk.

Potential Risks: Temporary losses of forage, however, no significant negative environmental impacts are expected.

Proposed Methods: The primary method of treatment will be the lop-and-scatter technique.

Shapefile Name: Horse Bench Treatment Area

Seed Source:

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date: 12/04/2007

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Details: Photograph plots pre-treatment and then re-photograph the plot sites immediately following the treatment. Photos will be taken at the plot sites annually for 10 years and once every third year thereafter. Photographs will be taken in late June after cool season growth has ended but before most of the livestock-grazing season. Over time the photo plot site monitoring will enable us to determine the effectiveness and resulting habitat improvement of this treatment.

Cons. Outreach Details:

SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer

Elk

Raptors

Small Mammals

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LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
SITLA	497
Total	497

PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	\$13,245.00	12/04/2007	\$13,245.00
DNR Watershed (FY09)	\$7,750.00		\$0.00
Habitat Acct 174	\$5,000.00		\$0.00
Totals	\$25,995.00		\$13,245.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	In Kind/ Partner Contrib.
Contractual Services	Lop'n'Scatter related costs	\$12,750.00	\$13,105.00
Materials and Supplies	Ribon, Flagging, etc.	\$0.00	\$140.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals		\$12,750.00	\$13,245.00

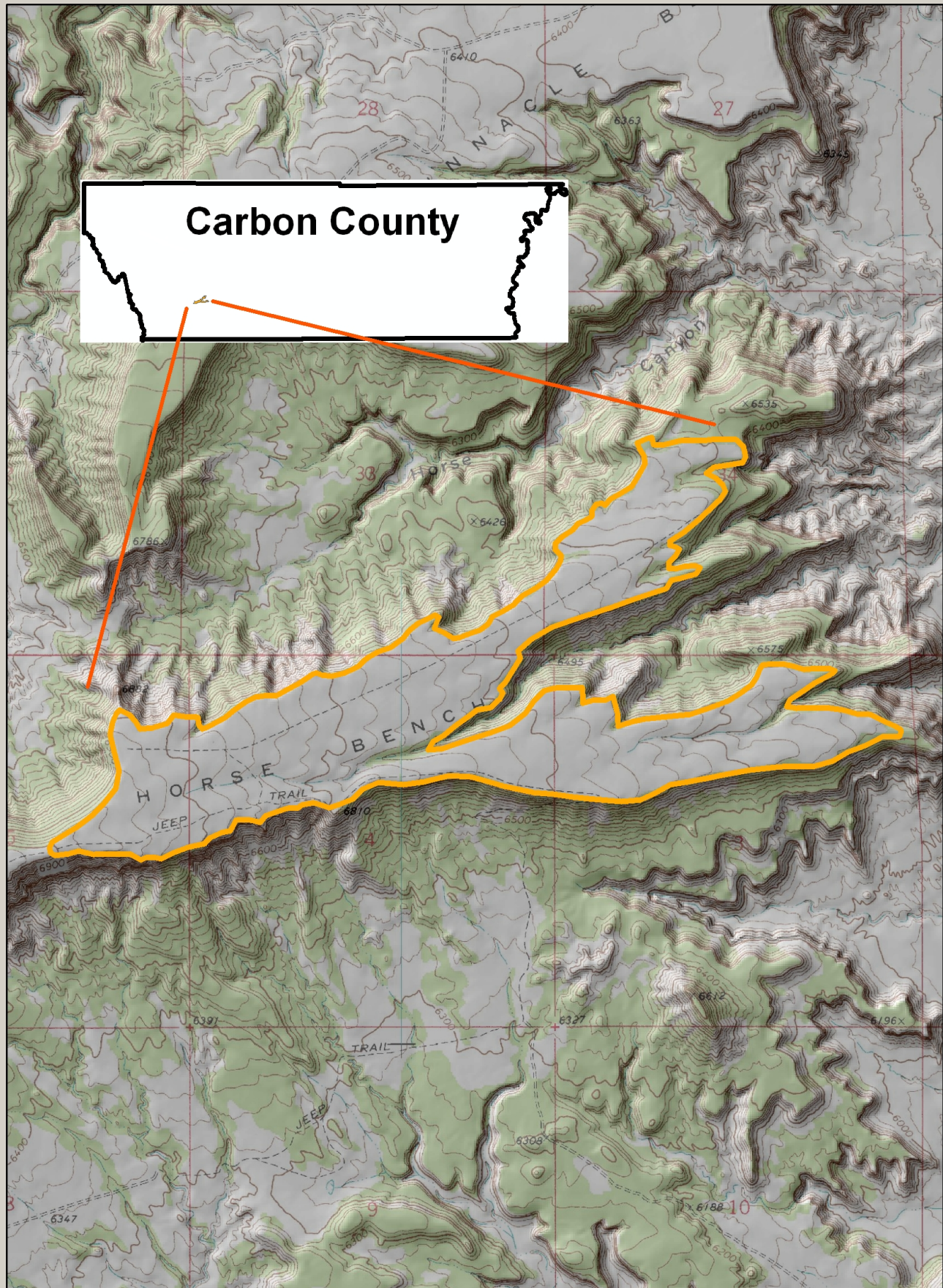
PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATION

Funding Type	Funding Percent
Big Game	100
Total	100.00%

Project Map:



Horse Bench Treatment Project



0 0.1250.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

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